



Durham Public Schools

Durham Public Schools has 50 schools with an enrollment of approximately 32,749 students. A seven member Board of Education that is elected every four years on a nonpartisan basis governs the unit.

Hospitals and Healthcare

Durham is the chief medical center south of Baltimore. Durham University Hospital is internationally known for its significant contributions to the study of cancer, heart disease and organ transplantation. Duke University Health System operates Durham Regional Hospital through a sublease with Durham County Hospital Corporation, a non-profit corporation. The facility specializes in pediatrics, obstetrics, gynecology, orthopedics as well as general medicine and surgery. The Veterans Administration Hospital provides general medicine and surgery. Lincoln Community Health Center houses primary health programs, but provides no inpatient care.

Major Business

Durham County has an expanding, diversified economy with a strong foundation in telecommunications, financial services, healthcare, medical related industries, manufacturing, pharmacological research and development, a growing life sciences cluster, service industries, general manufacturing, and education.

Noted Colleges and Universities

Duke University, North Carolina Central University and Durham Technical Community College.

Points of Interest

American Tobacco Complex, Bennett Place, Carolina Theatre, Black Wall Street/Historic Parrish Street, Durham Performing Arts Center, Duke Chapel, Duke University’s Nasher Museum of Art, Duke Homestead and Tobacco Museum, Streets at Southpoint, Sara P. Duke Memorial Gardens, Durham Bull’s Ballpark, Eno River State Park, Hayti Heritage Center, North Carolina Museum of Life and Science, North Carolina Central University Art Museum, North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, Stagville, and West Point on the Eno.



The Sarah P. Duke Gardens
(Courtesy of Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau)

Directory of County Services

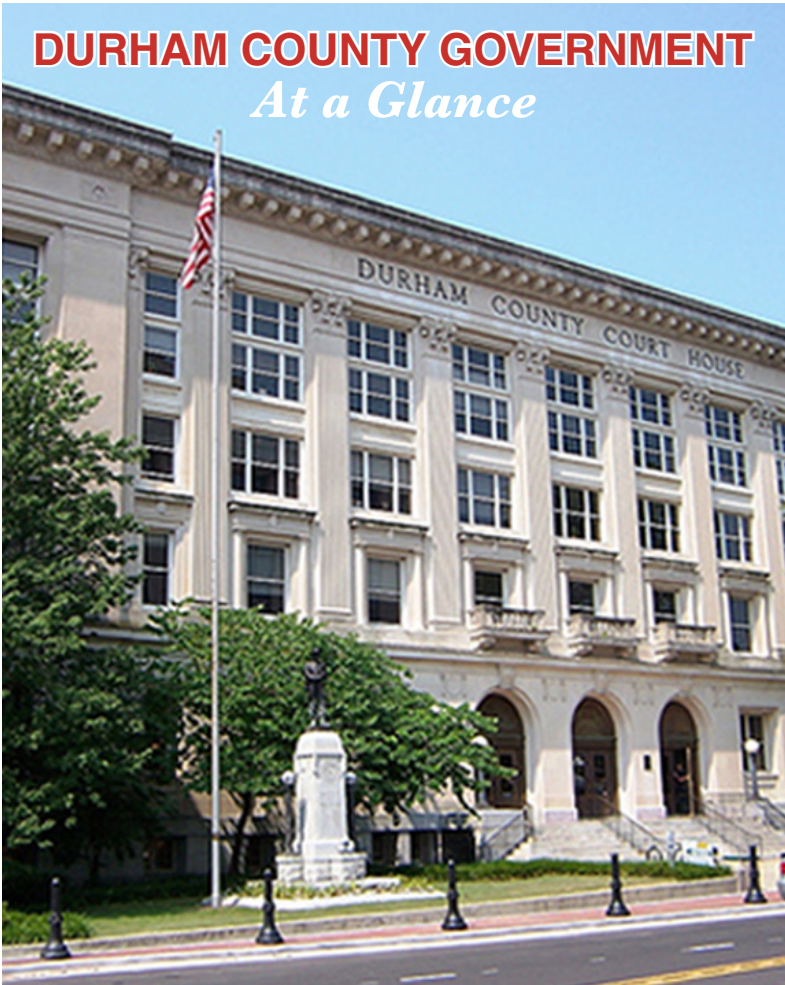
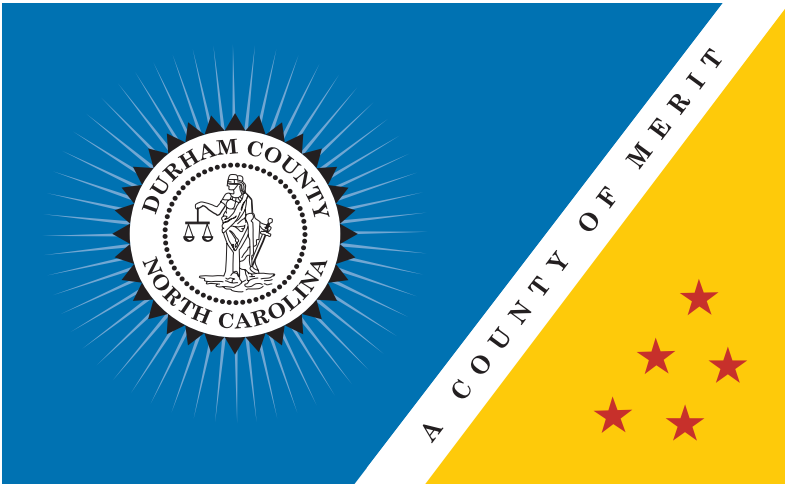
Animal Control	Cindy Bailey	560-0630
Budget	Pam Meyer	560-0004
City/County Inspections	Gene Bradham	560-4144
City/ County Planning	Steve Medlin	560-4137
Clerk to the Board	Vonda Sessoms	560-0025
Cooperative Extension	Delphine Sellars	560-0525
County Attorney	Chuck Kitchen	560-0705
County Engineering	Glen Whisler	560-0735
County Manager	Mike Ruffin	560-0000
Criminal Justice Resource Center	Gudrun Parmer	560-0500
Deputy County Manager	Wendell Davis	560-0000
Deputy County Manager	Carolyn Titus	560-0000
Durham Center	Ellen Holliman	560-7200
Elections	Mike Ashe	560-0700
Emergency Management	Jeff Batten	560-0660
Emergency Medical Services	Michael Smith	560-8285
Environ. Engineering	Glen Whisler	560-0735
Finance	George Quick	560-0035
Fire Marshal	Jeff Batten	560-0660
General Services	Mike Turner	560-0430
Human Resources	Marqueta Welton	560-7900
Information Technology	Perry Dixon	560-7000
Library	Skip Auld	560-0100
Mental Health	Ellen Holliman	560-7200
Public Health	Gayle Harris+	560-7600
Public Information	Deborah Craig-Ray	560-0000
Register of Deeds	Willie L. Covington*	560-0480
SAP Shared Services	Barbara Torian	560-7090
Sheriff	Worth L. Hill*	560-0897
Social Services	Sammy Haitchcock	560-8000
Soil and Water Conservation District	Eddie Culberson	560-0558
Tax Administrator	Kimberly Simpson	560-0300
Veterans Service	Louis Washington	560-7960
Youth Home	Angela Nunn	560-0840

* = Elected Officials
+ = Acting Director

Durham County is an Equal Employment/Affirmative Action Employer.

This publication was prepared by the Public Information Office
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www.durhamcountync.gov



Durham County Board of Commissioners



MICHAEL PAGE
Chairman



ELLEN RECKHOW
Vice-Chairman



JOE BOWSER



BECKY HERON



BRENDA HOWERTON

A five-member Board of Commissioners governs Durham County. The board members are elected at-large, on a partisan basis by a countywide vote. Commissioners serve four-year terms and elections are held in November of presidential election years. The board takes office at its first meeting in December following the November election, and at that time, elects a chairman and vice chairman.

The primary duties of the board include formulating policy, adopting an annual budget, establishing the annual property tax rate, appointing various officials, planning for county needs and enacting local ordinances. Additionally, the board has the authority to call bond referendums, authorize the county manager to enter into contracts and establish new programs and departments.

The board holds a work session on the first Monday of each month at 9 a.m. and convenes its regular business meetings at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. All meetings are open to the public and conducted in the Commissioners’ Chambers, located on the second floor of the Durham County Courthouse. Regular meetings are broadcast live on local cable channel 8, and can be viewed on the county’s website, www.durhamcountync.gov.

Durham County History



Aerial View of Durham, ca. 1930
(Courtesy of North Carolina
Collection, Durham County Library)

As early as colonial days, the area known as Durham County was important to North Carolina history. The English, Scottish and Irish settled along the waterways of the present Northeast corner of the county on land given to the Earl of Granville by the British Crown. As a result of the hard work of those early settlers, the area soon became a prosperous section of the state.

The City of Durham, named for Dr. Bartlett Durham, began as a railroad station and settlement. While Durham’s official birth date is April 26, 1853 (the date that the U.S. Post Office was established), the town was not incorporated by the General Assembly until April 10, 1869. The tobacco manufacturing industry focused worldwide attention on the area after the Civil War. As a result of that thriving business, Durham County grew and prospered tremendously.

In 1881, Durham officials sought to become an autonomous political subdivision and decided it was time to separate from Orange County. Durham County was formed on April 17, 1881 from portions of land transferred from neighboring Wake and Orange counties. In 1911, an additional portion of land was added from Wake County.

The first Durham County Board of Commissioners convened its initial meeting May 2, 1881. Durham County operated under the commission form of government with the chairman serving as chief administrator, until 1930 when it adopted the county manager form of government. Since that time there have been six county managers.

Durham County Profile

DATE ESTABLISHED:	APRIL 17, 1881
POPULATION:	263,189
REGISTERED VOTERS:	178,500
LOCATION:	NORTH CENTRAL NORTH CAROLINA, EQUIDISTANT FROM PHILADELPHIA AND ATLANTA
LAND AREA:	299 SQUARE MILES
COUNTY SEAT:	DURHAM
TOWNSHIPS:	DURHAM, CARR, OAK GROVE, MANGUM, LEBANON AND TRIANGLE
LOCATION OF GENERAL COUNTY OFFICES:	HISTORIC COUNTY COURTHOUSE 200 E. MAIN ST. DURHAM, NC 27701

Durham County Administration

COUNTY MANAGER



MICHAEL M. RUFFIN

The County Manager is hired by the County Commissioners to serve as the chief administrative officer of county government. He also supervises and coordinates the daily activities of departments for the Board by seeing that all orders, policies, and federal or state mandates are carried out. The county manager recommends an annual budget, makes recommendations on appropriate matters of business and represents the county in dealing with other agencies.

Durham County Today



Durham County has evolved from an agricultural and manufacturing economy to attain world-class status in the areas of medicine and high technology. In the process, it has become one of the country’s most desirable places

to live. The internationally known Research Triangle Park is home to more than 170 major research and development organizations including IBM, GlaxoSmithKline, Nortel, Cisco, RTI International and Sumitomo Electric Lightwave. These companies and others in the park employ approximately 42,000 people. Other major research and development organizations, including BD Biosciences, Carolina Mechanical, Cormetech, bioMerieux, Freudenberg Nonwovens and AW North Carolina are located in the northern section of the county.